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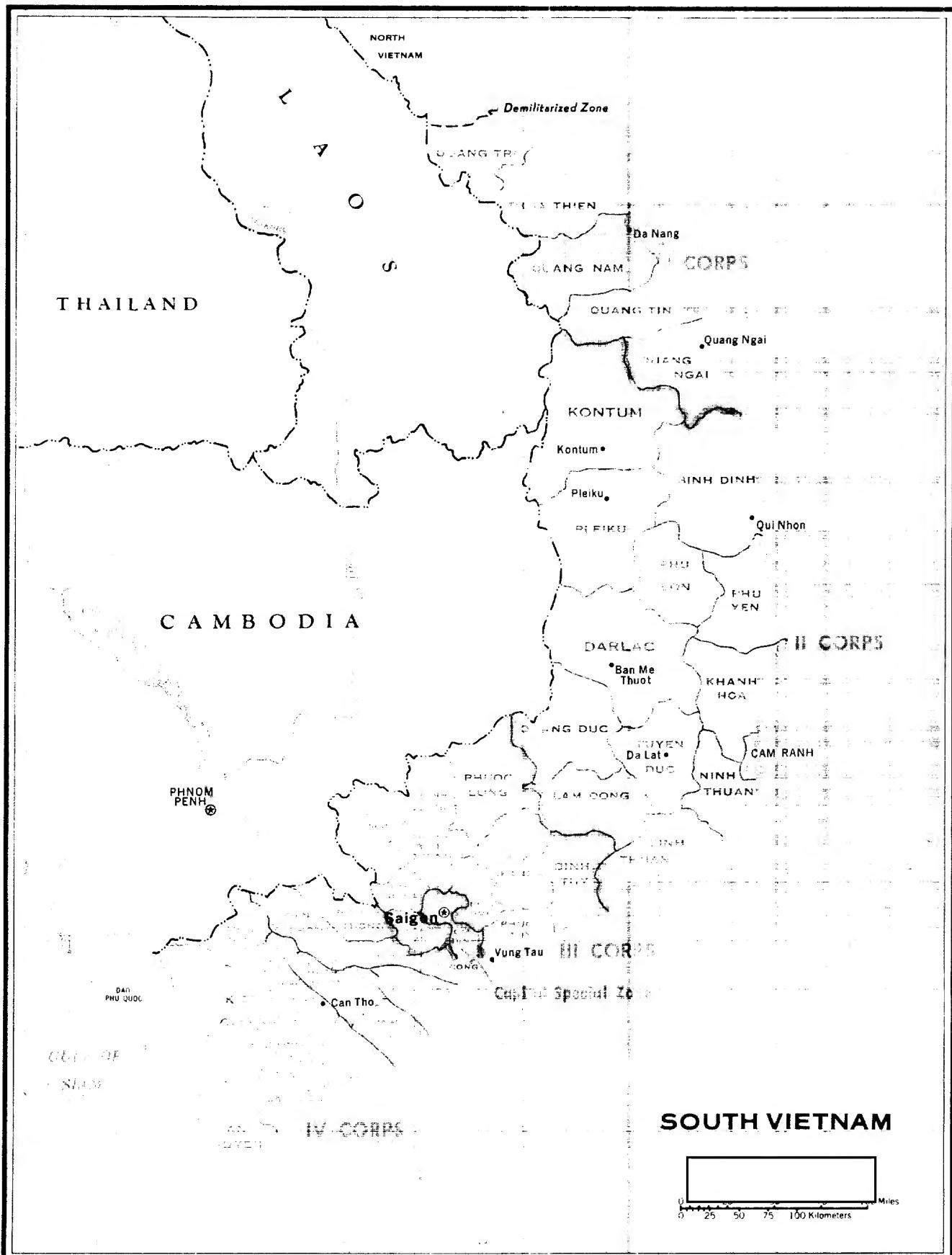
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Vietnam: Communist forces, apparently still heavily engaged with preparations for a possible resumption of country-wide offensive activity, continued to avoid major combat with the allies on 12 August, although several sharp small-unit clashes were reported.

In southern I Corps, recently captured documents have revealed plans for attacks by the North Vietnamese 31st Infantry and 68th Artillery regiments against three airfields in Quang Nam Province sometime after 18 August. Agent reports in the Saigon area continue to suggest a possible delay in enemy attack plans against the capital.

* * * *

An article in the North Vietnamese Army newspaper on 10 August breaks a long silence in Hanoi propaganda regarding the US election campaign. The article condemns both parties and all the candidates. It probably is part of a regime effort to warn the populace that strenuous military effort is still required and that false hopes should not be raised either by the elections or by the Paris talks. The article offers no clues to Hanoi's real attitude toward the elections. [(Map)]

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Hong Kong: Colonial authorities fear a major protest by local Communists when the government closes the Chung Wah Middle School, a focal point of Communist activity in Hong Kong.

The Communist-run school, which was caught manufacturing bombs, is scheduled to be closed on 14 August. This may be deferred, however, to avoid giving Communist China any pretext for further delay in letting British Embassy personnel leave Peking.

There have been some protests in the Communist press over the proposed closure of the school, but Hong Kong authorities fear that the actual closing may set off public demonstrations. The orthodox Communist leadership apparently regards the school closure as inevitable, but young, activist elements may try to exploit the situation.

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NOTE

North Korea - Dahomey: Pyongyang is again attempting to improve North Korea's image in Africa prior to the annual vote on Korea at the fall session of the United Nations. A goodwill delegation headed by the North Korean ambassador to Guinea arrived in Dahomey on 7 August after visiting Liberia. The visits to these two countries, both of which have diplomatic relations with Seoul, reflect Pyongyang's continuing attempts to establish contacts with non-Communist nations. [redacted]

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